

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the Educator)
)
Certificate of Barry S. Washington)
)
Certificate 173620)

ORDER OF REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 12, 2006. By letter of March 16, 2006, the Office of Educator Certification sent Barry S. Washington notice of his right to a hearing regarding the possible revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Washington received the notice on March 22, 2006, confirmed by the U.S. Postal Service. Mr. Washington did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the notice letter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Mr. Washington's certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Washington holds a valid South Carolina certificate and has ten years of previous teaching experience in South Carolina. On February 28, 2006, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission revoked Mr. Washington's Georgia educator certificate on the grounds of abusive and unprofessional conduct towards a student while employed as a teacher in a Georgia school district during the 2004–05 school year. Mr. Washington admitted to making sexually suggestive remarks to a fourteen-year old female student after learning that the student had been sexually abused by family members and was emotionally fragile.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may revoke the certificate of any person for just cause; just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, and evident unfitness for position. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). The State Board finds that there is sufficient information to support a conclusion that just cause exists to revoke Mr. Washington's South Carolina certificate. Should Mr. Washington ever wish to reapply for certification in South Carolina, he may not do so until after April 12, 2009. To be eligible for certification at that time, Mr. Washington must meet all current certification requirements and he must submit to a character and fitness review by the State Board.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/Joe Isaac
Joe Isaac, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 12, 2006